

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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8UB A47 1. A filing system in which at least one
data processing apparatus is connected to a file server
via a transmission path, comprising:

10 a data capturing unit which captures image
data of a document into the data processing apparatus;

 a data storing unit which stores the image
data captured by the data capturing unit, onto an image
storage medium;

15 an authorized user identifying unit which
acquires one or a plurality of owner identifications when
the image data is captured by the data capturing unit;

 an access management unit which correlates
the owner identifications with the image data stored by
the data storing unit, and allows the stored image data to
20 be accessed when any of the owner identifications
correlated with the image data is verified; and

 a data output unit which outputs the image
data in a readable manner by retrieving the stored image
data of the image storage medium when the access to the
25 image data is allowed by the access management unit.

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1 2. The filing system according to claim 1,
wherein the authorized user identifying unit acquires one
or a plurality of operator identifications when the image
data is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein
5 the access management unit correlates the operator
identifications with the image data stored by the data
storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be
accessed when one of the operator identifications
correlated with the image data is verified.

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 3. The filing system according to claim 1,
15 further comprising a public mode identifying unit which
acquires a public-mode identification when the image data
is captured by the data capturing unit, and wherein the
access management unit correlates the public-mode
identification with the image data stored by the data
20 storing unit, and allows the stored image data to be
accessed by all authorized users when the public-mode
identification correlated with the image data is acquired.

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1 4. The filing system according to claim 1,
further comprising a capture inhibition identifying unit
which acquires a capture-inhibition identification before
the image data is captured by the data capturing unit, and
5 wherein, when the capture-inhibition identification is
acquired, the capturing of the image data by the data
capturing unit is inhibited.

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 5. The filing system according to claim 1,
further comprising an initialize command detecting unit
which detects an initialize command, and an initialization
15 unit which initializes the acquired owner identifications
into initial values when the initialize command is
detected.

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 6. The filing system according to claim 5,
wherein the initialize command detecting unit includes a
clock which measures an elapsed time from a start of
25 operation of the data processing apparatus, and the

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1 initialize command is transmitted to the initialize
command detecting unit when the elapsed time measured by
the clock exceeds a predetermined reference period.

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7. The filing system according to claim 5,
wherein the initialize command detecting unit further
10 detects the initialize command when an entire data
processing on the data processing apparatus is terminated,
and the initialization unit initializes the acquired owner
identifications when the initialize command is detected.

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8. The filing system according to claim 1,
wherein the authorized user identifying unit includes: a
20 list displaying unit which displays a list of user
selection buttons corresponding to a plurality of
authorized user identifications; and an input detecting
unit which determines whether any inputs are given onto
the user selection buttons displayed by the list
25 displaying unit.

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1 9. The filing system according to claim 8,
wherein the list displaying unit displays the list of the
user selection buttons in a sequence of the authorized
user identifications being defined in a user information
5 file.

10 10. The filing system according to claim
8, wherein, each time the inputs to the user selection
buttons are given, a display color of each of the input
user selection buttons is changed to a separate color that
is indicative of the authorized user identification
15 selection.

20 11. The filing system according to claim
8, wherein the authorized user identifying unit further
includes an input history recording unit which records a
latest user selection count for each of the inputs to the
user selection buttons, and the list displaying unit
25 displays a set of frequent-selection user buttons based on

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1 the latest user selection counts thereof.

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12. The filing system according to claim
8, wherein, when any inputs to the user selection buttons
are first given, the authorized user identifying unit
acquires ones of a plurality of operator identifications
10 corresponding to the input user selection buttons, and
when any inputs to the user selection buttons are
subsequently given, the authorized user identifying unit
acquires ones of the plurality of owner identifications
corresponding to the input user selection buttons.

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13. The filing system according to claim
20 8, wherein the data processing apparatus has a copying
function, a facsimile function and a scanning function,
the data capturing unit capturing the image data by using
one of the copying, facsimile and scanning functions, and
the list of the user selection buttons corresponding to
25 the frequent-selection owner identifications and a list of

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15. The filing system according to claim
1, wherein the authorized user identifying unit acquires a
25 standard user identification as one of a plurality of

1 operator identifications when the image data is captured
by the data capturing unit using a facsimile receiving
function and any of the owner identifications are not
acquired, and wherein the access management unit
5 correlates the standard user identification with the image
data stored by the data storing unit, and allows the
stored image data to be accessed when the standard user
identification correlated with the image data is verified.

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16. The filing system according to claim
15, wherein the access management unit includes a standard
user identification setting unit which acquires a standard
user identification, the standard user identification
being predetermined on a display device of a client data
processing apparatus and transmitted to the access
management unit by using a Web server function.

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17. The filing system according to claim
25 1, further comprising a monitoring/displaying unit which

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1 monitors an amount of available storage of the image
storage medium and displays the amount of the available
storage, wherein, when the amount of the available storage
of the image storage medium is below a lower limit, a
5 warning message indicating a lack of the available storage
is displayed.

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18. The filing system according to claim
1, wherein the data storing unit includes a first storage
device of the data processing apparatus and a second
storage device of the file server, and wherein the data
15 processing apparatus includes a communication control unit
which transmits the image data, stored in the first
storage device, to the second storage device via the
transmission path.

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19. A data processing method for use in a
data processing apparatus of a filing system, comprising
25 the steps of:

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1 capturing image data of a document into the
data processing apparatus;

storing the captured image data onto an
image storage medium;

5 acquiring one or a plurality of owner
identifications when the image data is captured into the
data processing apparatus;

correlating the owner identifications with
the image data stored on the image storage medium;

10 allowing the stored image data to be
accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated
with the image data is verified; and

outputting the image data in a readable
manner by retrieving the stored image data of the image
15 storage medium when the access to the image data is
allowed.

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20. The data processing method according
to claim 19, wherein, in said acquiring step, one or a
plurality of operator identifications are acquired when
the image data is captured, and, in said correlating step,
25 the operator identifications are correlated with the

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1 stored image data, and, in said allowing step, the stored
image data is allowed to be accessed when one of the
operator identifications correlated with the image data is
verified.

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21. The data processing method according
10 to claim 19, further comprising the step of acquiring a
public-mode identification when the image data is
captured, and wherein, in said correlating step, the
public-mode identification is correlated with the image
data stored by the data storing unit, and, in said
15 allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be
accessed by all authorized users when the public-mode
identification correlated with the image data is acquired.

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22. The data processing method according
to claim 19, further comprising the step of acquiring a
capture-inhibition identification before the image data is
25 captured, and wherein, when the capture-inhibition

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1 identification is acquired, the capturing of the image
data in said capturing step is inhibited.

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23. The data processing method according
to claim 19, further comprising the steps of: detecting an
initialize command; and initializing the acquired owner
10 identifications into initial values when the initialize
command is detected.

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24. The data processing method according
to claim 19, further comprising the steps of: displaying a
list of user selection buttons corresponding to a
plurality of authorized user identifications; and
20 determining whether any inputs are given onto the
displayed user selection buttons.

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1 25. The data processing method according
to claim 19, further comprising the step of acquiring a
standard user identification as one of a plurality of
operator identifications when the image data is captured
5 but any of the owner identifications are not acquired, and
wherein, in said correlating step, the standard user
identification is correlated with the stored image data,
and, in said allowing step, the stored image data is
allowed to be accessed when the standard user
10 identification correlated with the image data is verified.

15 26. The data processing method according
to claim 19, further comprising the step of acquiring a
standard user identification as one of a plurality of
operator identifications when the image data is captured
using a facsimile receiving function and any of the owner
20 identifications are not acquired, and wherein, in said
correlating step, the standard user identification is
correlated with the stored image data, and, in said
allowing step, the stored image data is allowed to be
accessed when the standard user identification correlated
25 with the image data is verified.

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1 27. The data processing method according
to claim 26, wherein the standard user identification is
predetermined on a display device of a client data
processing apparatus in the filing system, and transmitted
5 to the image storage medium of the data processing
apparatus by using a Web server function.

10 28. The data processing method according
to claim 19, further comprising the steps of: monitoring
an amount of available storage of the image storage
medium; and displaying the amount of the available
15 storage, and wherein, when the amount of the available
storage of the image storage medium is below a lower
limit, a warning message indicating a lack of the
available storage is displayed.

20 29. The data processing method according
to claim 19, further comprising the step of transmitting
25 the image data, stored on the image storage medium, to a

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1 storage device of the file server via the transmission
path.

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30. A computer readable medium storing
program code for causing a processor to execute a data
acquisition processing on a data processing apparatus, the
10 computer readable medium comprising:

first program code means for causing the
processor to capture image data of a document into the
data processing apparatus;

second program code means for causing the
15 processor to store the captured image data onto an image
storage medium of the data processing apparatus;

third program code means for causing the
processor to acquire one or a plurality of owner
identifications when the image data is captured;

20 fourth program code means for causing the
processor to correlate the owner identifications with the
image data stored on the image storage medium, and for
causing the processor to allow the stored image data to be
accessed when any of the owner identifications correlated
25 with the image data is verified; and

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